

forwarded to the Unstriper output. If a (single) error occurred, only one checkword match will exist and the stream with the match will be forwarded off chip and the Unstriper will identify the faulty fabric stripe.

5           For different switch configurations, i.e. 1, 2, 4, 6, or 12 fabrics, the algorithm is the same but the stripe width changes.

          If 2 fabrics fail, all data running through the switch will almost certainly be corrupted.

          The fabric slots are numbered and must be populated in  
10 ascending order. Also, the spare fabric is a specific slot so populating fabric slots 1, 2, 3, and 4 is different than populating fabric slots 1, 2, 3, and the spare. The former is a 160G switch without redundancy and the latter is 120G with redundancy.

          Firstly, the ASICs are constructed and the backplane  
15 connected such that the use of a certain portcard slots requires there to be at least a certain minimum number of fabrics installed, not including the spare. This relationship is shown in Table 0.1

          In addition, the APS redundancy within the switch is  
20 limited to specifically paired portcards. Portcards 1 and 2 are paired, 3 and 4 are paired, and so on through portcards 47 and 48. This means that if APS redundancy is required, the paired slots must be populated together.

          To give a simple example, take a configuration with 2 portcards and only 1 fabric. If the user does not want to use APS

94M  
12-07

redundancy, then the 2 portcards can be installed in any two of portcard slots 1 through 4. If APS redundancy is desired, then the two portcards must be installed either in slots 1 and 2 or slots 3 and 4.

Portcard Slot	Minimum # of Fabrics
1-4	1
5-8	2
9-12	3
13-16	4
17-24	6
25-48	12

Table 1: Fabric Requirements for Portcard Slot Usage

9<sup>th</sup>  
1-12-07

To add capacity, add the new fabric(s), wait for the switch to recognize the change and reconfigure the system to stripe across the new number of fabrics. Install the new portcards.

Note that it is not technically necessary to have the full 4 portcards per fabric. The switch will work properly with 3 fabrics installed and a single portcard in slot 12. This isn't cost efficient but it will work.

To remove capacity, reverse the adding capacity procedure.

If the switch is oversubscribed, i.e. install 8 portcards and only one fabric.

It should only come about as the result of improperly upgrading the switch or a system failure of some sort. The reality

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TABLE 11: Bit striping function

9N<sup>m</sup>  
1-2-07

		Fab 0	Fab 1	Fab 2	Fab 3	Fab 4	Fab 5	Fab 6	Fab 7	Fab 8	Fab 9	Fab 10	Fab 11
	0:11	0:11											
1 fab	12:23	12:23											
	24:35	24:35											
	36:47	36:47											
	0:11	0, 2, 5, 7, 8, 10	1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 11										
2 fab	12:23	13, 15, 16, 18, 21	12, 14, 17, 19, 20, 22										
	24:35	+24 to 0:11	+24 to 0:11										
	36:47	+24 to 12:23	+24 to 12:23										
	0:11	0, 3, 5, 10	2, 4, 7, 9	1, 6, 8, 11									
3 fab	12:23	15, 17, 22, 13	14, 16, 19, 21	13, 18, 20, 23									
	24:35	+24 to 0:11	+24 to 0:11	+24 to 0:11									
	36:47	+24 to 12:23	+24 to 12:23	+24 to 12:23									
	0:11	0, 5, 10	3, 4, 9	2, 7, 8	1, 6, 11								
5 4 fab	12:23	15, 16, 21	14, 19, 20	13, 18, 23	12, 17, 22								
	24:35	26, 31, 32	25, 30, 35	24, 29, 34	27, 28, 33								
	36:47	37, 42, 47	36, 41, 46	39, 40, 43	38, 43, 44								
	0:11	0, 11	1, 4	5, 8	2, 9	3, 6	7, 10						
6 fab	12:23	14, 21	15, 18	19, 22	12, 23	13, 16	17, 20						
	24:35	+24 to 0:11											
	36:47	+24 to 12:23											
	0:11	0	4	8	1	5	9	2	6	10	3	7	11
12 fab	12:23	15	19	23	12	16	20	13	17	21	14	18	22
	24:35	26	30	34	27	31	35	24	28	32	25	29	33
	36:47	37	41	45	38	42	46	39	43	47	37	40	44

The following tables give the byte lanes which are read first in the aggregator and written to first in the separator. The four channels are notated A,B,C,D. The different fabrics have

source. This is done in the same context as the generic synchronization algorithm.

The 8b/10b encoding/decoding in the gigabit transceivers allow a number of control events to be sent over the channel. The notation for these control events are K characters and they are numbered based on the encoded 10 bit value. Several of these K characters are used in the chipset. The K characters used and their functions are given in the table below.

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TABLE 12: K Character usage

9NM  
1-12-07

	K character	Function	Notes
10	28.0	Sync indication	Transmitted after lockdown cycles, treated as the prime synchronization event at the receivers
	28.1	Lockdown	Transmitted during lockdown cycles on the backplane
	28.2	Packet Abort	Transmitted to indicate the card is unable to finish the current packet. Current use is limited to a port card being pulled while transmitting traffic
	28.3'	Resync window	Transmitted by the striper at the start of a synch window if a resynch will be contained in the current sync window
15	28.4	BP set	Transmitted by the striper if the bus is currently idle and the value of the bp bit must be set.
	28.5	Idle	Indicates idle condition
	28.6	BP clr	Transmitted by the striper if the bus is currently idle and the bp bit must be cleared.

The switch has a variable number of data bits supported to each backplane channel depending on the striping configuration for a packet. Within a set of transceivers, data is filled in the following order:

F[fabric]\_[oc192 port number][oc48 port designation (a,b,c,d)][transceiver\_number]

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TABLE 23:

9NM  
1-12-07

Word	Meaning
APS	Automatic Protection Switching. A sonet/sdh standard for implementing redundancy on physical links. For the switch, APS is used to also recover from any detected port card failures.
Backplane	A generic term referring either to the general process the the switch boards use to account for varying transport delays between boards and clock drift or to the logic which implements the TX/RX functionality required for the the switch ASICs to account for varying transport delays and clock drifts.
5 synch	
BIB	The switch input bus. The bus which is used to pass data to the striper(s). See also BOB
Blade	Another term used for a port card. References to blades should have been eliminated from this document, but some may persist.
BOB	The switch output bus. The output bus from the striper which connects to the egress memory controller. See also BIB.
Egress	This is the routeword which is supplied to the chip after the unstriper. From an internal chipset perspective, the egress routeword is treated as data. See also fabric routeword.
10 Routeword	
Fabric	Routeword used by the fabric to determine the output queue. This routeword is not passed outside the unstriper. A significant portion of this routeword is blown away in the fabrics.
Routeword	
Freeze	Having logic maintain its values during lock-down cycles.
Lock-down	Period of time where the fabric effectively stops performing any work to compensate for clock drift. If the backplane synchronization logic determines that a fabric is 8 clock cycles fast, the fabric will lock down for 8 clocks.
15 Queue Resynch	A queue resynch is a series of steps executed to ensure that the logical state of all fabric queues for all ports is identical at one logical point in time. Queue resynch is not tied to backplane resynch (including lock- down) in any fashion, except that a lock-down can occur during a queue resynch.
SIB	Striped input bus. A largely obsolete term used to describe the output bus from the striper and input bus to the aggregator.
SOB	<del>One of two meanings. The first is striped output bus, which is the output bus of the fabric and the input bus of the agg. See also SIB. The second meaning is a generic term used to describe engineers who left Marconi to form/work for a start-up after starting the switch design.</del> <sup>striper</sup>
Sync	Depends heavily on context. Related terms are queue resynch, lock-down, freeze, and backplane sync.
Wacking	The implicit bit steering which occurs in the OC192 ingress stage since data is bit interleaved among stripers. This bit steering is reversed by the aggregators.

9NM  
1-12-07

20 Although the invention has been described in detail in the foregoing embodiments for the purpose of illustration, it is to be understood that such detail is solely for that purpose and that variations can be made therein by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention except as it  
25 may be described by the following claims.